

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 17, 2003

**Contact: Sen. Mark Schauer
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Sen. Schauer Praises Budget Agreement

Schauer: 'I came to Lansing to fight for children, jobs and health care. This budget reflects those priorities.'

LANSING – Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Calhoun, Jackson counties) supported and voted for the bi-partisan budget put forward by Gov. Jennifer Granholm. The Senator worked closely with the Governor and his legislative colleagues on the agreement as nearly unanimous approval of her FY 2004 budget bills was completed today.

"I worked hard with Gov. Granholm and legislators to make sure that the major interests in my district were protected," Schauer said. "I came to Lansing to fight for children, jobs, and health care. This is a fiscally responsible budget that reflects those priorities without raising taxes. I am also very pleased to see the Michigan Economic Development Corporation will be fully funded since it has provided my district with some positive economic news in the past few months."

The following list reflects some of the Senator's budget priorities and how the new budget agreement will incorporate them:

- Early childhood development funding: Early childhood and pre-school education will receive \$72.8 million.
- Per-pupil funding and Rainy Day Fund for schools: Per-pupil funding held harmless at \$6,700 and \$75 million will be set aside in a special fund to prevent future mid-year cuts to the school aid fund.
- Michigan Economic Development Corporation: This critical job creation engine for the state will be funded at original proposed funding levels.
- Youth Challenge Academy: Restores funding for vital Battle Creek-based youth program for at-risk teens.
- Fire Protection Grants: Provides a funding framework to restore fire protection funding for Blackman Twp. and other municipalities that provide fire services for prisons and other state properties.
- Health care: Protected hospitals and our health care systems.
- Safeguards state support of vital local services: Ensured continued funding for police, fire, and other municipal services through revenue sharing.

Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.

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Editor's Note: Sen. Schauer's most recent photo is available for download; please visit his web site at:

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/Graphics/pressphotos/SD19SchauerPortrait.jpg>